India becoming home of the Largest HIV Carriers by the Turn of the Century

487. DR. B.B DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about three million Indians are infected with the AIDS Virus;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to experts, 20 to 50 million Indians will be infected by the turn of this century making India home of the largest population of HIV carriers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) details of steps taken to control the spread of AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. It is a guess estimate.

(d) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation as a centrally sponsored scheme throughout the country. The strategies of the programme consist of generation of awareness among high risk behaviour group and general public about HIV/AIDS, control of Sexually Transmitted Diseaes, Blood Safety and rational use of blood, surveillance; and care and support of HIV/AIDS cases.

Losses suffered by Indian Airlines and Air India

488. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1018 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1996 and state:

(a) the reasons for losses suffered by IA and AI and the routes on which loss is being incurred; and

(b) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to meet the loss and to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India incurred losses during 1995-96 due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation by engineers depreciation of rupee value etc. Losses are incurred on operations to the Continent, Canada UK, Africa and freighter operations to USA and Singapore.

Indian Airlines has been incurring losses due to grounding of A320 fleet, entry of private airlines on trunk routes, exodus of pilots etc. Indian Airlines has been incurring losses on routes connecting stations in North East region, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increse revenue.

Suspension of an Engineer of a Private Airlines by DGCA

489. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director-General Civil Aviation recently suspended an engineer of a private airline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure safety of passengers of private airlines; and

(d) the reasons for not taking any action against the management for slacking the safety requirements?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.